

CTTAB 2004 Minutes

March 9, 2004

Meeting Minutes

City of Seattle, Board Room, 27th Floor

Key Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Board Members Present

Todd Achilles

Bill Baron

Maryann Budlong

Michael Daum

Deborah Gartside

Pwint Htun

Huat Lim

Manny Ovena

Ann Robinson

Nina Sanders

Ken Thompson

Harriet Wasserman

Excused

Jeff Techico

Absent

Jason Bennett

Damien Koemens

Richard Salway

Staff

David Keyes

Jill Novik

Bill Schrier, CTO

Visitors

Ann Suter, SCAN

Meredith Blache, CTCNet

Mike Weisman

1. Announcements, Agenda Approval; Review of Minutes:

February minutes were amended to include Bill Baron as a facilitator; Ann to cable refranchising committee; and Huat and Manny to Community Technology committee. In addition, Huat asked to be removed from the facilitator list.

2. Remarks from the Chief Technology Officer: Bill Schrier

AT&T recently conducted a Disaster Recover Test of equipment for a post-disaster scenario. Following 9/11, when telephone and wireless communications went down in New York, the National Communication System – a consortium of major telecommunications companies and the federal government – is working to ensure restoration of limited local communications within 48 hours of a

disaster.

Schrier also discussed the City's telephone system, whose infrastructure is owned by the City. The City has also entered into a joint agreement with the County and Cingular for a rate of \$.11/minute for its 2400 cell phones. The City is also in a consortium of governments for a fiber network. Harriet commented that that network had proved to be a time and money saver for Seattle Central. The consortium is only developing the fiber backbone, with users responsible for their own Internet connections and electronics.

3. 2004 Officer Elections

There was some question about who is willing to run for office and it was agreed to continue elections to the April agenda. Harriet will contact prospective candidates as to their interest.

4. Community Technology Report: Community Technology: David reported that 42 applications were submitted for this year's TMF. The question was raised as to whether the TMF would fund organizations that discriminate. David requested that Board members look over the list of applicant organizations and let him know if there were any such organizations, which would not be eligible for funding. There was some discussion as to whether to invite Mickey Fearn to address CTTAB on the Mayor's Racial and Social Justice initiative prior to evaluating the TMF projects or to be timely for the civic engagement projects. It was agreed to invite Mickey to CTTAB in the hour before the April full CTTAB meeting.

CTCNet Conference: Meredith Blache presented information on the June 11-13 conference in Sea-Tac. CTCNet is looking for sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, and presenters

5. Committee Reports

Emerging Technologies: Pwint reported that the committee will be providing reading material for the Board. Bill Baron noted that there was also discussion of sponsoring a Wi-Fi forum. Ken presented information on broadband over power line (BPL) including potential applications and drawbacks. It could be of interest to the City due to the City having its power network. People commented that BPL is in use in Europe and Bill Schrier noted that City Light is looking at automated meter reading in South Lake Union using BPL.

6. Cable Office Report: Jill Staff briefed the Mayor's Office at the end of February and are proceeding with the community needs assessment.

S150, the U.S. Senate bill would bar municipalities from taxing telecommunications services to the extent that telecommunications services are used to get access to the internet. The City opposes the bill because the way it is worded could result in substantial revenue loss to the City since telecommunications and Internet access are so intertwined. It's passage could eventually result in the entire loss of City telecommunication taxes at an annual cost of \$31 million to the City. The Mayor is sending a letter to Sen. Murray expressing the reason

Comcast Video on Demand: Comcast hosted a VOD demonstration for local jurisdictions on February 24, 2004. Seattle digital customers should be able to get VOD in March or April, and will be able to download both free and pay content.

Legislation has been submitted to City Council that would address a settlement between Millennium Digital Media and the City over MDM's failure to complete buildout of franchised areas. Components of the settlement, which would provide in-kind benefits in lieu of cash penalties, include changing the channel position of the Seattle Channel to channel 21 to be consistent with the

Comcast location; public service announcements on their channel and on KIRO for the City and non-profits; and some funding for SCAN.

Seattle Channel: anyone interested in attending the production of C.R. Douglas' show "City Inside Out" on April 9 from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. should let Jill know.

7. Presentations at Meetings:

Harriet and Mike presented the background: in 2003 the Board was concerned that presentations by outside speakers used up Board time and posed potential conflict of interest issues. At that time, the Board agreed to have outside presenters speak during the hour before the monthly Board meeting, and to use the committees to filter who would be of sufficient interest to present to the Board. After much discussion, the following action was unanimously taken in regard to outside (non-government) speakers: 1) *Committees to filter speakers and request a presentation subject to the full Board agenda availability;* 2) *Speakers to be limited to 10 minute presentations with 10 minutes for questions from the Board;* 3) *Any allocation of time beyond the 20 minute limit would require a vote by the Board;* and 4) *The Board will develop a disclaimer discussing potential conflict of interest for outside speakers.*

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.